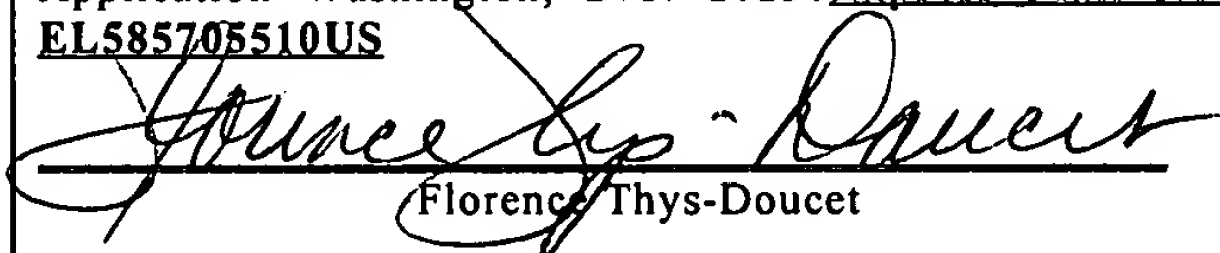


3/A

PATENT
Client/Matter No. 18950-68

I hereby certify that on October 12, 2001, this document (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, Express mail, in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application Washington, D.C. 20231 Express Mail No. EL585705510US


Florence Thys-Doucet

Applicant: Jorma Virtanen
Serial No.: To Be Assigned
Filed: October 12, 2001
Title: Assay Device and Method
Examiner: Unknown
Group Art Unit: Unknown
Parent App. Serial No. 09/632,113
Filed: August 3, 2000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attn: Box Non-Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please enter the following Preliminary Amendment:

IN THE TITLE

Please amend the title to read -- ASSAY DEVICE AND METHOD -- ✓

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows a marked up copy is appended hereto to show changes:

On page 13, line 16, change "5A" to -- 5 -- . ✓

Figure 5 is a schematic representation of the chemical structure of an exemplary cleavable spacer molecule of the cleavable reflective signal element of this invention, subsequent to its attachment to the derivatized plastic substrate surface of the assay device but prior to derivatization with oligonucleotide side members, in which piv denotes a pivaloyl protective group, MMT denotes monomethoxytrityl, and n and m each independently represents an integer greater than or equal to one;

On page 69, delete lines 28-31 and insert:

-- Ia: 5'-CGGGTGTGG (SEQ. ID. NO. 1) Ib: CGGCCGCGG-3' (SEQ. ID. NO. 5)
IIa: 5'-CGGGTGTGA (SEQ. ID. NO. 2) IIb: CGGCCGCGG-3' (SEQ. ID. NO. 5)
IIIa: 5'-CGGGTGTGC (SEQ. ID. NO. 3) IIIb: CGGCCGCGG-3' (SEQ. ID. NO. 5)